



Chief Dana Wingert

Press Release

For immediate release

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08 November 2019

On 08 November 2019, at approximately 2:13 a.m., Des Moines Police Department patrol officers responded to investigate a report of a single vehicle serious car crash on eastbound I-235 at Easton Boulevard.

Officers arrived to find one vehicle extensively damaged. The male driver of that vehicle died at the scene.

At this time, eastbound I-235 is reduced to one lane at the scene of the crash. It is expected to be fully open within two hours.

The Des Moines Police Department Traffic Unit is investigating this crash. Preliminary indications are that excessive speed is a major contributing factor to this crash.

Additional information will be shared as it becomes available to release. The next scheduled update will be at 11:00 a.m., 08 November 2019.

UPDATE: 08 November 2019, 11:00 a.m.

The person killed in this crash is 22 year old Des Moines resident Dimitrious Galvan.

Evidence indicates that Galvan was driving a 2000 Honda Civic at an extremely high rate of speed, accompanied by another vehicle, eastbound on I-235 at Easton Boulevard when he lost control. The Honda spun out of control, began to roll, and stopped as it crashed into the sound barrier wall along the Easton Boulevard entrance ramp to eastbound I-235.

During the crash, Galvan was ejected from the vehicle and vaulted over the sound barrier wall, landing in a yard in the 1400 block of E. 22nd Street. Galvan died at the scene.

The driver of the second vehicle, a 23 year old male Des Moines resident, has been interviewed by Traffic Unit investigators. At this time, no charges have been filed.

At this time, excessive speed and failure to maintain control appear to be the significant contributing factors to this crash. Impairment has not been ruled out. Toxicology testing is pending.

The Des Moines Police Department Traffic Unit continues the technical investigation of this crash. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available to release.

UPDATE: 05 December 2019, 8:00 p.m.

In connection with this crash, Des Moines Police Department Traffic Unit officers have charged 23 yr old Des Moines resident Devin Russell Smith with one count of Homicide By Vehicle – Drag Racing, a class D felony.

The investigation found that as Galvan and Smith entered I-235 eastbound, Galvan sped up on I-235 and Smith also sped up in an apparent exhibition of speed or speed contest. Galvan and Smith's vehicles reached speeds over 100 mph as they continued to move eastbound on I-235 in close proximity to each other. As both cars traversed a curve on I-235 at Easton Blvd, Galvan's vehicle lost control subsequently crashing near the on ramp from Easton Blvd. Galvan was thrown from the Honda and died from his injuries at the accident scene.

The investigation continues as investigators await toxicology results.

Additional information will be shared as it becomes available to release.

Sgt. Paul Parizek